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Message Text

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14
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 AID-20

IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /170 W
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R 161715Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7822
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 348

BEIRUT PLS PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP, IZ
SUBJ: SPANISH SALE OF 106MM RECOILESS RIFLES

REF: MADRID 312

FOLLOWING ORAL APPEAL FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL
(REFTEL), AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER
DATED JANUARY 15 FROM SPANISH FONMIN CORTINA MAURI CONCERNING
IRAQI REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF 200 106 MM RECOILLESS
RIFLES. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF FONMIN LETTER AS
FOLLOWS:
MY DEAL AMBASSADOR AND FRIEND:
I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF WRITING TO YOU TO ASK FOR
YOUR PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH COMPETENT
AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE
DECISION ON THE MATTER THAT WAS RAISED YESTERDAY BY
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AND FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
OF THIS MINISTRY WITH THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC
SECRETARY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, MR. SIMCOX,
WITH REFERENCE TO THE SALE TO IRAQ BY SPAIN OF
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200 106MM ANTI-TANK RECOILLESS RIFLES THAT WERE

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BUILT UNDER AMERICAN PATENTS.
THIS IS A MATTER IN WHICH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT
HAS A PRIMORDIAL INTEREST SINCE THE REQUEST WAS MADE
PERSONALLY TO OUR AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ. TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR RELATIONS
WITH IRAQ, WHICH HAS JUST DONATED AN IMPORTANT
QUANTITY OF PETROLEUM AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE
FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES,
IT WOULD SEEM UNFRIENDLY ON OUR PART TO REFUSE
THE EXPORT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED MILITARY EQUIP-
MENT THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED WITH SO MUCH
INTEREST. SUCH A NEGATIVE RESPONSE COULD BE
INTERPRETED BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT AS A
GESTURE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS
AND WOULD THEREFORE HAMPER OUR POSITION IN THAT
COUNTRY WHICH IS SO BENEFICIAL FOR THE POLICY OF
THE WEST IN GENERAL.
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THESE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
THAT I EXPRESSED TO YOU, I ASK YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR,
TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING THE STEPS
THAT YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE SO THAT THE US
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OPPOSE THE AFOREMENTIONED
SALE. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE).
SIGNED: PEDRO CORTINA MAURI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RIVERO

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